

Additional file 4 Comparison of priority symptoms for cholera in endemic areas of three African settings, by site and gender

	SE-DRC, n=360					Western Kenya, n=379					Zanzibar, n=356				
a. Overall	Total rep.		Prom.			Total rep.		Prom.			Total rep.		Prom.		
Loss of appetite	86.7		1.24			91.3		1.10			87.9		1.04		
Sunken eyes ^a ***	97.5		1.44			93.9		1.00			94.9		1.26		
Unconsciousness***	90.3		1.44			74.4		0.94			91.6		1.62		
Weakness ^b ***	98.3		2.61			94.7		1.55			97.2		1.88		
Cannot say***	4.7		0.12			37.5		1.26			18.5		0.40		
b. Site comparison	Urban		Rural		p value	Urban		Rural		p value	Urban		Rural		p value
	Total rep.	Prom.	Total rep.	Prom.		Total rep.	Prom.	Total rep.	Prom.		Total rep.	Prom.	Total rep.	Prom.	
Blood in stool	18.3	0.23	18.3	0.20	0.853	61.1	0.70	55.0	0.77	0.535	23.5	0.28	50.3	0.60	<0.001
Loose skin	97.2	1.33	96.7	1.43	0.035	85.8	0.93	83.6	0.93	0.640	90.5	1.09	88.1	1.11	0.737
Loss of appetite	82.2	1.25	91.1	1.23	0.994	94.2	1.14	88.4	1.06	0.042	92.2	1.16	83.6	0.92	<0.001
Mucus in stool	39.4	0.47	38.3	0.43	0.716	62.1	0.64	59.8	0.67	0.844	8.9	0.09	37.9	0.38	<0.001
Nausea	88.9	1.14	91.7	1.00	0.043	86.8	0.91	84.1	0.92	0.939	87.7	0.93	88.1	0.93	0.991
Palpitations	75.6	0.93	91.1	0.99	0.235	67.9	0.70	62.4	0.77	0.570	84.4	1.16	73.4	0.80	<0.001
Rectal pain	63.9	0.72	52.8	0.56	0.012	75.8	0.77	67.7	0.70	0.090	69.3	0.69	73.4	0.79	0.270
Sunken eyes	96.1	1.30	98.9	1.57	<0.001	95.3	1.03	92.6	0.98	0.105	93.9	1.15	96.0	1.37	<0.001
Unconsciousness	87.2	1.47	93.3	1.41	0.733	75.3	0.84	73.5	1.05	0.210	92.7	1.94	90.4	1.30	<0.001
Weakness ^p	96.7	2.37	100.0	2.86	0.003	98.9	1.61	90.5	1.49	0.257	96.6	1.92	97.7	1.84	0.209
Cannot say	3.9	0.12	5.6	0.13	0.816	34.7	1.09	40.2	1.42	0.036	15.1	0.32	22.0	0.47	0.090
c. Gender comparison	Female		Male		p value	Female		Male		p value	Female		Male		p value
	Total rep.	Prom.	Total rep.	Prom.		Total rep.	Prom.	Total rep.	Prom.		Total rep.	Prom.	Total rep.	Prom.	
Fever	84.5	0.88	82.7	0.89	0.887	64.9	0.70	74.6	0.83	0.044	85.5	0.91	84.2	0.98	0.679
Palpitations	84.5	0.96	82.1	0.96	0.956	70.1	0.84	60.0	0.62	0.016	79.3	1.01	78.5	0.95	0.562
Very thirsty	89.0	1.12	88.3	1.02	0.249	82.0	0.87	86.5	0.93	0.275	83.2	0.93	71.8	0.79	0.021

Categories ordered alphabetically, except for “cannot say.” ‘Total rep.’=‘Total reported,’ referring to percentage of categories reported spontaneously and upon probing. ‘Prom.’=‘Prominence,’ referring to mean prominence of categories based on how reported (spontaneous=2, probed=1, most troubling=3).^a This category considered among the top three in Western Kenya although prominence for “cannot say” was higher. ^b One response missing in Western Kenya (n=378). Panel a: Figures in bold designate top three prominent categories; comparison between settings based on Kruskal Wallis test, *** p<0.001. Panels b and c: Figures in bold designate significant differences at p<0.05 based on Wilcoxon test. SE-DRC: Southeastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Data for Zanzibar in panel b from: Schaetti C, Khatib AM, Ali SM, Hutubessy R, Chaignat CL, Weiss MG: **Social and cultural features of cholera and shigellosis in peri-urban and rural communities of Zanzibar.** *BMC Infect Dis* 2010, **10**:339. Data for Western Kenya in panel a and b from: Nyambetha EO, Sundaram N, Schaetti C, Akeyo L, Chaignat CL, Hutubessy R, Weiss MG: **Distinguishing social and cultural features of cholera in urban and rural areas of Western Kenya: Implications for public health.** *Glob Public Health* 2013, **8**:534-551.